

upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 11, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patrick J. Leahy, Brian Schatz, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden, Martin Heinrich, Bernard Sanders, Edward J. Markey, Cory A. Booker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Baldwin	Cornyn	Kaine
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Blumenthal	Crapo	Kennedy
Blunt	Duckworth	King
Booker	Durbin	Klobuchar
Boozman	Feinstein	Leahy
Brown	Fischer	Lee
Burr	Gillibrand	Lujan
Cantwell	Graham	Lummis
Capito	Hassan	Manchin
Cardin	Heinrich	Markey
Carper	Hickenlooper	McConnell
Casey	Hirono	Menendez
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Merkley
Collins	Inhofe	Moran
Coons	Johnson	Murkowski

Murphy	Rounds	Tillis
Murray	Sanders	Van Hollen
Ossoff	Schatz	Warner
Padilla	Schumer	Warnock
Peters	Sinema	Warren
Portman	Smith	Whitehouse
Reed	Stabenow	Wicker
Risch	Sullivan	Wyden
Romney	Tester	Young
Rosen	Thune	

NAYS—20

Barrasso	Ernst	Rubio
Blackburn	Grassley	Sasse
Braun	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Hoeben	Shelby
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—3

Paul	Shaheen	Toomey
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:40 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 20 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I am very pleased today to rise to support the nomination of our former Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. We are very lucky that he is willing to serve again. He is certainly no stranger to all of us, and we are very fortunate that he is willing to once again be part of public service. In serving as Agriculture Secretary during all 8 years of the Obama administration, Secretary Vilsack presided over the USDA with decisive, effective leadership. It was a pleasure to work with him.

The Agriculture Committee held a bipartisan hearing earlier this month, and mere hours later, we voted to advance his nomination without any objection. His deep knowledge of agri-

culture and rural America is needed now more than ever, for our farmers, our families, and our rural communities have so many challenges right now.

The COVID-19 crisis is continuing to disrupt our food supply chain for farmers, food processors, and essential workers. Tens of millions of families still don't have enough to eat and are lining up at food banks in order to put food on the table. The climate crisis is posing an extremely grave threat to the long-term viability of our economy and our food supply. Farmers of color, who have long faced civil rights abuses and systemic racism, continue to experience economic disparities.

On top of all of this, there is a lot of work to be done to rebuild the USDA workforce so that the Department can fulfill its very important mission.

American farmers, families, and rural communities need strong, effective leadership now more than ever. When it comes to strengthening our food and farm economy, I am very confident that soon-to-be-confirmed Secretary Tom Vilsack will be more than up to the task. He has a proven track record and will embrace new ideas in a new era at the Department.

I know he is committed to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and I know he is committed to focusing on feeding our families in need. We have more than 50 million Americans today who are in a hunger crisis, themselves and their families. I know he cares deeply and is committed to making sure they are able to feed their families.

I know he is very focused on tackling the climate crisis and has done a lot of work, since leaving as the Secretary of Agriculture a few years ago, focusing on voluntary, producer-led, farmer-friendly efforts that can make a real difference and allow agriculture to lead in addressing the climate crisis.

I also know he is very focused and committed on addressing the racial discrimination that we have seen systematically over the years in agriculture and addressing those issues in a very fair and equitable way. I look forward to partnering with him on these issues.

Senator BOOZMAN and I enjoyed our first hearing, which was his confirmation hearing. I look forward to partnering with Senator BOOZMAN and our entire committee to be able to move forward on a whole range of issues that are important for all of us, for everybody in our country. To do that, we need a great partner and an effective partner in the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and I know with great confidence that this person is Tom Vilsack.

I yield the floor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, as the United States is facing its worst hunger crisis since the Great Depression and family farms are struggling, President Biden has nominated Thomas Vilsack to reprise his role as Secretary of Agriculture and capably steward the Department to address